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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/840,857	04/24/2001	Maurice R. Paquin	3257-29A	5728

7590 10/17/2002

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EXAMINER

FORTUNA, JOSE A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1731

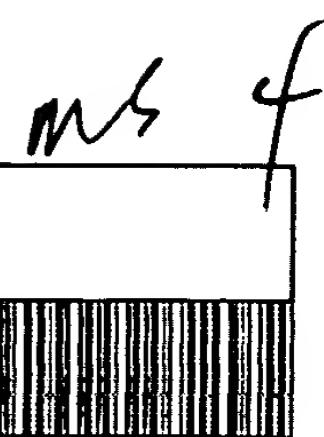
DATE MAILED: 10/17/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No. 09/840,857	Applicant(s) Paquin et al.
Examiner José A. Fortuna	Art Unit 1731



-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- Responsive to communication(s) filed on Nov 20, 2001
- This action is FINAL.
- This action is non-final.
- Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- Claim(s) 18-46 is/are pending in the application.
- Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- Claim(s) 18-46 is/are rejected.
- Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- The drawing(s) filed on Apr 24, 2001 is/are a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

- a) All b) Some* c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
 - The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 3
- Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference sign(s) mentioned in the description: endless loop **40** is not shown in figure 1, as mentioned in page 13, lines 14, 21 and 27. A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 18-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Rexfelt et al., US Patent No. 5,360,656.

Rexfelt et al. teach a press felt for use in the papermaking operation. Rexfelt et al. teach the making of the felt by winding a fabric yard between two rollers separated by a predetermined distance. Rexfelt et al. teach also that the press felt comprises one or more layers and that one of the layers is composed of spirally-wound strip of fabric, see abstract. Rexfelt et al. teach in column 5, lines 28-34, that the fibrous is spirally-wound with edges abutted, edge to edge relationship, and joined by sewing or by binding them with a melted resin, welding, see column 2,

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lines 43-67. Rexfelt et al. teach in the same lines that fibrous layers can be placed on one of the surfaces of the fabric and joined to the fabric by needling, see also figure 5. It seems that Rexfelt et al. teach all the limitations of the claims or at least the minor modification(s) to obtain the claimed invention would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Note that Rexfelt et al. teach the limitations of the dependent claim, such as the width of the fabric strip, thread spacing, net-like strip, etc. , see column 3, lines 8-60. Note that using other types of woven or non-woven strips would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art since it has been held that “[W]here two equivalents are interchangeable for their desired function, substitution would have been obvious and thus, express suggestion of desirability of the substitution of one for the other is unnecessary.” *In re Fout* 675 F. 2d 297, 213 USPQ 532 (CCPA 1982); *In re Siebentritt*, 372 F.2d 566, 152 USPQ 618 (CCPA 1967).

Conclusion

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure in the art of “Press fabrics.”

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José Fortuna, whose telephone number is (703)305-7498. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 9:30 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Steven P. Griffin, can be reached on (703)308-1164. The fax number for this group is (703)305-7115.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703)308-0661.

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When filing a FAX in group 1730, please indicate in the Header (upper right) "Official" for papers that are to be entered into the file, and "Unofficial" for draft documents and other communication with the PTO that are not for entry into the file of the application. This will expedite processing of your papers.

José a. Fortuna
October 16, 2002


JOSE FORTUNA
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1731